

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
WILDERNESS SCHOOL
STUDENT CONTRACT

Student Name: _____ Referring Agent: _____

Introduction: The Student Contract is an agreement made between students and families, their Referring Agencies, and the Wilderness School. This agreement relates directly to what students want to gain from participating in the program. It also outlines the basic expectations of students when they are attending Wilderness School. To sign this contract means that each person is making a commitment to uphold the goals and expectations written below.

To The Student: Goals are an important part of your involvement with the Wilderness School. They express your desire to make improvements in your life. This is your contract and you should develop meaningful goals. We would like you to set two goals for the 20-Day, 5-Day or Alumni Expedition this summer as well as two goals for the Follow-Up year.

Use the guidelines below to help you get started, then write your goals in the space provided below. When setting goals for your Expedition, be sure to:

- Be Honest: Include things about yourself that can be improved.
- Be Realistic: Set goals you can accomplish.
- Be Specific: Break goals down into small steps.

I. Course Goals:

Write two goals for the 20-Day, 5-Day, or Alumni Expedition. Focus on areas you would like to change such as behaviors and attitudes or that you would like to learn such as skills and knowledge of yourself. Use your own words and make sure your goals matter most to you.

A. 1st Goal:

List the steps you will take to accomplish this goal:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

B. 2nd Goal:

List the steps you will take to accomplish this goal:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

C. Family Support and Involvement:

List the steps you will take to support your child's efforts to reach the goals written above:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

D. Referring Agency Support and Involvement:

List the steps you will take to support your student's efforts to reach the goals written above:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

II. Follow-Up Goals

A. List two goals for the fall, winter and spring following your summer Wilderness School Expedition.

1. _____
2. _____

III. Basic Expectations

Wilderness School courses take place in isolated areas where the consequences of accidents and injuries are potentially serious. Students must be aware of the rules listed below so all crew members remain safe and healthy at all times. Group members must be conscientious of themselves as well as all other participants on the course. Wilderness School requires all students to read and agree to follow the behavioral policies, basic safety rules, and rules for participation listed below. Violations of Wilderness School Behavioral Policies requires intervention from program staff and removal from the course to determine whether the student shall be allowed to continue participating in the program.

A. Behavioral Policies

1. **Non-Compliance:** Failure to comply with program policies, procedures, expectations, or staff directions or requests in a deliberate, repetitive manner will result in removal from the course and contact will be made with the Referring Agency and/or family.
2. **Violence and Threatening:** Violent or threatening behavior will result in the student's removal from the course and contact with the Referring Agency and/or family.
3. **Severe Emotional Disturbance:** When a student's actions present a reasonably assured risk of harm to self or others, the student will be removed from the courses and care of the student will be relinquished to an emergency medical service, an M.D., parent or family, or Referring Agent.
4. **Emotional Safety:** Intentional, repetitive actions (verbal or physical) that result in emotional distress or intimidation of a persistent nature will result in removal from the course and contact with the Referring Agency and/or family.
5. **Sexual Activity:** Engaging in or being suspected of sexual activity will result in removal from the course and contact with the Referring Agency and/or family.
6. **Drugs and Alcohol:** Using or being suspected of using drugs or alcohol will result in removal from the course and contact with the Referring Agency and/or family. Please note: There is no use of tobacco products at the Wilderness School.

B. Basic Safety Rules and Rules For Participation

1. Stay with the group at all times.
2. Do not attempt to leave the program on your own.
3. Personal knives are not allowed on the course.
4. Everyone must eat three meals every day.
5. Prescription medications must be taken in accordance with Doctor's orders
6. Shoes must be worn at all times, even when in the water.
7. Listen to and follow all procedures for specific activities, such as canoeing or rock climbing
8. Show respect for all Wilderness School participants and staff.
9. Show respect for the environment, public property and private property.
10. Show respect for yourself -- always be willing to try.

IV. Contract Agreement

A. Student: By signing my name below, I agree to work towards the goals I have written in this contract. I also agree that I have read and understand the rules detailed in this contract and that I will follow them for the safety and well-being of all Wilderness School participants.

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

B. Family and Referring Agency: By signing my name below, I agree to support (please name) _____ in the ways I have written in this contract. I also agree that I have read and understand the rules detailed in this contract and that I will provide guidance for this student to thoroughly understand these expectations.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Referring Agent Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

C. Wilderness School: By signing my name below, I agree that I have read this contract and agree to the goals and areas of support as written above. I also agree to provide guidance for this student to thoroughly understand all expectations.

Wilderness School Staff Signature: _____ **Date:** _____